

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**ENTERED**
December 05, 2023
Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

In re:

FREE SPEECH SYSTEMS, LLC.,

Debtor.§
§
§
§
§Case No. 22-60043
Chapter 11 (Subchapter V)**SEVENTEENTH INTERIM ORDER AUTHORIZING DEBTOR'S USE OF CASH COLLATERAL
AND PROVIDING PARTIAL ADEQUATE PROTECTION**

On July 29, 2022, the above-captioned debtor and debtor-in-possession (the “Debtor” or “FSS”) in the above-captioned chapter 11 case (the “Case”), filed its *Emergency Motion for an Interim and Final Order (I) Authorizing the Use of Cash Collateral Pursuant to sections 105, 361, and 363 of the Bankruptcy Code and Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(b) and (II) Granting Adequate Protection to the Pre-Petition Secured Lender* (the “Motion”). In the Motion, the Debtor requested, *inter alia*, entry of an interim order pursuant to Sections 105, 361, and 363 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101, et seq. (the “Bankruptcy Code”), and in accordance with Rules 2002, 4001, and 9014 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), authorizing the Debtor’s use of Cash Collateral (as hereinafter defined), as set forth herein. The Court held an interim hearing on the Motion on August 3, 2022 (the “Interim Hearing”) and entered an order approving the interim use of cash collateral. (the “First Interim Order”). The Court has subsequently conducted periodic hearings extending authority to use cash collateral on an interim basis. This order is the Seventeenth interim order (“Seventeenth Interim Order”), negotiated between the Debtor, PQPR and certain tort claimants pursuing litigation against the Debtor and others in Texas and Connecticut (the “Tort Plaintiffs”). The Debtor and the Tort Plaintiffs reserve all rights relating to a final hearing on the use of cash collateral. The findings contained in the First Interim Order are incorporated by reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

1. Interim Use. The Court approves the interim use of cash collateral as set forth herein.

2. Interim Order. This Order shall be considered an interim cash collateral order and shall be binding upon all parties and upon all subsequently appointed court officers, including any trustee appointed in the Case under Chapter 7 or Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

3. DIP Account. The Debtor shall maintain debtor in possession (“DIP”) accounts at Cadence Bank which accounts shall contain all operating revenues and any other source of cash constituting Cash Collateral, which is (or has been) generated by and is attributable to the Debtor’s business (the “DIP Account”). All cash generated by the Debtor or from the Debtor’s business or assets, including any cash held in any of the Debtor’s pre-petition bank accounts, shall be immediately transferred by the Debtor to the DIP Account. The Debtor shall be prohibited from withdrawing or using Cash Collateral funds from the DIP Account except as provided for in the Budget, this Order, or pursuant to further order of the Court.

4. Terms of Cash Collateral Use. The Debtor is hereby authorized to use Cash Collateral during the period covered by this Seventeenth Interim Order (the “Interim Period”) to pay the items set forth in the revised Budget attached to this Order as Exhibit A, and up to the respective aggregate amount of disbursements set forth in the Budget for any week during the Interim Period, subject to the Permitted Variance (as hereinafter defined). The Permitted Variance shall be defined as 10% per line item and 20% of the overall Budget. The Debtor shall not use, sell, or expend, directly or indirectly, the Cash Collateral except pursuant to the Budget and upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Order.

5. No Payments to Insiders. Other than as provided for in the Budget, the Debtor shall not make any payment to or for the benefit of any insider of the Debtor, as that term is defined in section 101(31) of the Bankruptcy Code. Other than as provided for in the Budget, no payments to any insider during the Interim Period shall exceed \$10,000.

6. Further Authorization. The Debtor is hereby authorized to enter into all agreements pursuant to the terms of this Order necessary to allow the Debtor to use Cash Collateral subject to the terms of this Order in the amounts and for the expenses set forth on the Budget. The Debtor is authorized to collect and receive all accounts receivable and other operating revenues and immediately deposit same in the DIP Account.

7. Taxes. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to grant PQPR (the “Pre-Petition Lender”) liens which are senior to pre- and post-petition statutory ad valorem real property tax liens. The Debtor shall remain current in all post-petition tax payments and reporting obligations, including, but not limited to, all ad valorem real property taxes and federal trust fund taxes.

8. Adequate Protection – Replacement Liens. The adequate protection and related carve out set forth in the First, Second, Third and Fourth Interim Orders are incorporated in the Seventeenth Interim Order.

9. Adequate Protection Payment. The Debtor will reserve the sum of \$5,000 per week during the Interim Period for adequate protection to PQPR but shall not pay the reserved amount to PQPR unless authorized by further orders of this Court. Nothing herein shall constitute an admission that PQPR is or is not entitled to receive any adequate protection payment on account of its claims. Moreover, nothing herein shall prejudice the rights of any party-in-interest, including but not limited to the Debtor, any creditor, or PQPR to challenge or assert PQPR’s entitlement to receive an adequate protection payment.

10. Subsequent Modification of Order. If any or all of the provisions of this Order are hereafter modified, vacated or stayed, such modification, vacation or stay shall not affect the validity of any obligation, indebtedness or liability incurred by the Debtor from the Petition Date through the effective date of such modification, vacation or stay, or the validity or enforceability of any security interest, lien or priority authorized or created by this Order.

11. Credit Card Processing. The Debtor is authorized to remit fulfillment costs as provided in the Fulfillment Agreement previously approved by this Court’s *Order Granting Emergency Motion for Entry of Order Authorizing Debtor to Enter into Fulfillment Agreement* [Dkt. No. 286] from the daily settlement contemporaneously with the distributions to FSS and PQPR. Proceeds received by FSS for sales of PQPR inventory shall be held by FSS in trust pending distribution to PQPR by FSS.

12. Reporting. The Debtor shall report each Thursday for the preceding calendar week reflecting weekly sales and disbursement of the proceeds of those sales. A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the

U.S. Trustee, the Subchapter V Trustee, counsel for PQPR and Jarrod Martin as a representative of the Tort Plaintiffs.

13. Reservation of Rights. Nothing herein shall constitute a finding or ruling by this Court that any alleged and disputed lien or alleged and disputed security interest held by the alleged Pre-Petition Lender in respect of the purported PQPR Notes (as defined in the Motion) is valid, senior, enforceable, prior, perfected, or nonavoidable. Moreover, nothing herein shall prejudice the rights of any party-in-interest, including but not limited to the Debtor, any official committee appointed in the Chapter 11 Case or any other creditor, to challenge the validity, priority, enforceability, seniority, avoidability, perfection, or extent of any alleged and disputed lien or alleged and disputed security interest held by the alleged Pre-Petition Lender in respect of the purported PQPR Notes.

14. Final Cash Collateral Hearing: The Debtor shall file a notice of cash collateral use with a proposed budget for the months of January and February 2024 not less than 7 days prior to the end of each month. The terms and conditions of this Order shall apply to any future use of cash collateral. Any party with an objection to Debtor's budgets shall file appropriate pleadings and request a hearing before the Court.

Signed: December 05, 2023



Christopher Lopez
United States Bankruptcy Judge

CURRENT 4 WEEK BUDGET										NOTES
		12/1/2023-12/2/2023	12/9/2023-12/9/2023	12/10/2023-12/16/2023	12/17/2023-12/23/2023	12/24/2023-12/30/2023	12/31/2023	Total		
Week Number		48	49	50	51	52	52			
Income										
Product Sales (Net of 7.0% Merchant Fee)		\$ 125,517.03	\$ 477,510.44	\$ 513,323.72	\$ 359,326.60	\$ 358,132.83	\$ 62,758.51	\$ 1,886,569.13	Net of 5.5% CC Merchant fees. Includes Shipping and Sales Tax, excludes any POPR / Plain	
New Product Initiative		39,183.71	149,068.49	160,248.63	112,174.04	111,801.37	19,591.85	592,068.09	Drop Ship vendor for Meals Ready to Eat and Coffee, gross sales	
Point of Sales Revenue		13,684.44	52,060.37	55,964.90	39,175.43	39,045.28	6,842.22	206,772.64	Fulfillment Vendor Product Sales	
Platinum / POPR Commission		22,530.07	85,712.21	92,140.63	64,498.44	64,284.16	11,285.03	340,430.54	Net of 50% payment to POPR	
Donations		500.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	500.00	500.00	5,250.00		
Total Income		201,415.25	765,601.51	822,927.88	576,424.52	573,763.64	100,957.61	3,041,090.40		
Selling & Product Costs										
Inventory Purchases		-	(450,000.00)	-	-	-	-	(450,000.00)	Inventory deposits and purchases from numerous Vendors	
New Product Initiative		(29,387.78)	(111,801.37)	(120,186.47)	(84,130.53)	(83,861.03)	(14,693.89)	(444,051.07)	Payments to Meal Ready to Eat Vendor	
Point of Sale Product Cost		(8,210.66)	(31,236.22)	(33,578.94)	(23,595.26)	(23,427.17)	(4,105.33)	(124,053.56)	Fulfillment Vendor product costs	
Fulfillment Services		(16,944.80)	(64,463.90)	(69,298.70)	(48,599.09)	(48,347.89)	(8,472.40)	(256,036.83)	Fulfillment Vendor shipping and handling costs	
Texas Sales Tax (20% of Sales @ 6.25%)		(1,568.96)	(5,566.88)	(6,416.55)	(4,491.58)	(4,476.66)	(784.48)	(23,707.11)		
Total Cost of Goods Sold		(56,112.21)	(663,470.38)	(229,480.66)	(160,636.46)	(160,102.79)	(28,056.10)	(1,297,858.60)		
Operating Expenses										
Advertising & Promotion		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Print Media		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Radio Show Advertising		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Total Advertising & Promotion		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Computer/IT/P Expense		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Internet & TV services		-	(2,500.00)	(1,750.00)	(3,250.00)	(3,250.00)	-	(10,750.00)		
Server Hosting / Cloud Service / Ecomm		-	(90,000.00)	(15,000.00)	(50,000.00)	(50,000.00)	-	(205,000.00)		
Satellite Service		-	(140,000.00)	(15,000.00)	(15,000.00)	(15,000.00)	-	(185,000.00)		
Telecommunications		-	(18,500.00)	(2,000.00)	(7,000.00)	(7,000.00)	-	(34,500.00)		
Image License, Software & Other		-	(10,000.00)	(10,000.00)	(10,000.00)	(10,000.00)	-	(40,000.00)		
Total Computer/IT/P Expense		-	(261,000.00)	(43,750.00)	(85,250.00)	(85,250.00)	-	(475,250.00)		
Office & Administrative Expense		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Bank Fees & Service Charges		-	(100.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)	-	(700.00)	Liability, auto, property and workers comp	
Insurance		-	(12,000.00)	-	-	-	-	(12,000.00)		
Rent		-	(57,440.00)	-	-	-	-	(57,440.00)		
Utilities		-	(3,100.00)	(800.00)	(500.00)	(500.00)	-	(4,900.00)		
Janitorial		-	-	(3,500.00)	-	-	-	(3,500.00)	Quarterly Cleaning fees	
Office Security		-	(9,000.00)	(9,000.00)	(9,000.00)	(9,000.00)	-	(36,000.00)		
Repair & Maintenance		-	-	(5,000.00)	(5,000.00)	-	-	(10,000.00)		
Supplies/Printing/Copy		-	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	(2,500.00)	(2,500.00)	-	(7,000.00)	Includes Konica Minolta copier lease	
Business Meals		-	(3,500.00)	-	(500.00)	-	-	(4,000.00)	Austin Office Christmas Event	
Total Office & Administrative Expense		-	(86,140.00)	(14,500.00)	(17,700.00)	(12,200.00)	-	(130,540.00)		
Personnel Expenses										
Salaries & Wages & Benefits		-	-	(155,500.00)	-	-	-	(311,000.00)	HR, Tax and Bookkeeping Fees	
Payroll Tax		-	-	(12,440.00)	-	(13,824.62)	-	(26,264.62)	Per the 11/27 Hearing, Jones Salary should not have been increased. He received one paycheck	
Contract Employees		-	(5,000.00)	(14,500.00)	(5,000.00)	(32,460.00)	-	(56,960.00)	at the unapproved rate. His new rate will be \$25,000 per pay period and FSS will recover the	
Consulting Services		-	(3,850.00)	(5,000.00)	(3,850.00)	(5,000.00)	-	(17,700.00)	\$32,682.31 overpayment in the December payroll	
Alex Jones Salary		-	-	-	-	(17,307.69)	-	(17,307.69)		
Total Personnel Expenses		-	(8,850.00)	(187,440.00)	(8,850.00)	(224,082.31)	-	(429,222.31)		
Travel										
Meal/Parking/Tolls		(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	-	(500.00)	Alex Jones Podcast Appearance	
Special Event Travel		-	(15,000.00)	-	-	-	-	(15,000.00)		
Travel / Lodging		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Vehicle Rental / Leases		(100.00)	(500.00)	(500.00)	(500.00)	(500.00)	-	(2,000.00)		
Total Travel Expenses		(100.00)	(15,600.00)	(600.00)	(600.00)	(600.00)	-	(17,500.00)		
Total Operating Expenses		(100.00)	(371,590.00)	(246,290.00)	(112,400.00)	(322,132.31)	-	(1,052,512.31)		
Non-Operating Expenses										
Adequate Protection Payment to SEC Bank		-	(2,750.00)	-	-	-	-	(2,750.00)		
Total Other Expenses		-	(2,750.00)	-	-	-	-	(2,750.00)		
Professional Fees										
CFO Fees		-	-	-	-	(50,000.00)	-	(50,000.00)		
CRO Expenses		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Trustee Fees		-	-	-	-	(30,000.00)	-	(30,000.00)		
Trustee Counsel		-	-	(100,000.00)	-	-	-	(100,000.00)		
Legal Fees - Reynal		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Legal Fees - Tax Consulting		-	(25,000.00)	-	-	-	-	(25,000.00)		
Legal Fees - Texas Appellate Counsel		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Discovery Data Processing Fee		-	-	(20,000.00)	-	-	-	(20,000.00)		
Ray Battaglia		-	-	-	-	(50,000.00)	-	(50,000.00)		
Total Professional Fees		-	(25,000.00)	(120,000.00)	-	(130,000.00)	-	(275,000.00)		
Total Cash Flow		145,203.04	(287,208.87)	227,157.22	303,386.05	(38,471.45)	72,901.51	412,969.50		
Ending Cash										
		2,047,859.78	1,750,650.91	1,977,808.13	2,281,196.18	2,242,724.73	2,315,626.24			

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EXHIBIT

exhibitsticker.com

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